

# HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

## PUBLIC REVIEW

This draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) documents the process by which the Garnet Resource Area has evaluated alternative management plans and selected the preferred plan. As a member of the public who is affected by this choice, your review of this draft will help the Garnet Resource Area to incorporate your concerns into the final RMP/EIS. Your comments will be most effective if they clearly point out areas where you wish to add information that is critical to the analysis process but has not been included, where you feel information is not correctly stated, or where you disagree with conclusions (please include your reasons for favoring a different conclusion).

## THE MANAGEMENT AREA CONCEPT

The Garnet RMP/EIS is based on the concept of management areas as developed by the Lolo National Forest Plan (USDA, FS 1982b). First, the capabilities of the land are evaluated in a resource inventory. Then, possible management options, appropriate for managing the resources on the land, are developed. (Fourteen different management area prescriptions were developed for the Garnet RMP and are listed in Appendix A.) Next, the capabilities of a given area of land is matched with an array of management options; all of the options are compatible with the multiple use management directives of the BLM but give emphasis to different resources. Finally, the management options for all lands are arranged into five alternative management plans. (The management area assignments for each alternative in the Garnet RMP are shown on the Alternative maps in the map packet.)

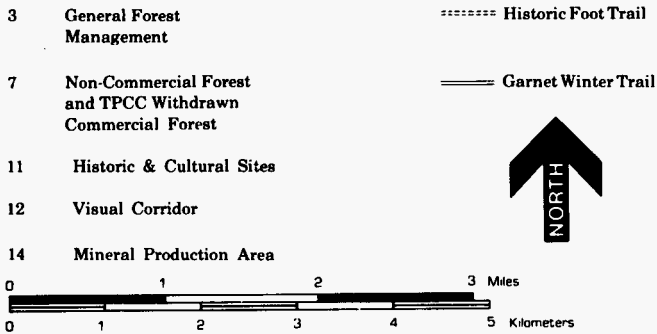
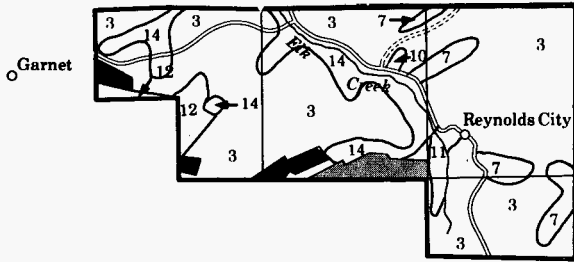
To understand this process, let's look at the headwaters area of Elk Creek east of Garnet Ghost Town. The Proposed Management of Upper Elk Creek maps show the location of important features. This area has extensive logged commercial timber interspersed with regenerating forests, some unlogged forest, and natural mountain grassland parks. The area contains several sites of cultural and historic interest—Reynolds City, its cemeteries, and outlying mine sites. Also a historic foot trail follows a tributary of the creek. The western portion of the area forms a scenic backdrop for Garnet Ghost Town. Extensive mining has occurred in the area, and most of Elk Creek has been disturbed by placer mining. The area draws many recreational visitors who use the winter recreation trail, visit Garnet Ghost Town, sightsee, and hunt. There is moderate use of the area by deer and elk. Livestock use is dispersed over the area.

Several management area prescriptions were selected as appropriate to manage the mix of resources in this area. Management Area 3 (MA 3) represents commercial forest land managed to maximize site productivity and sustained yield. MA 7 repre-



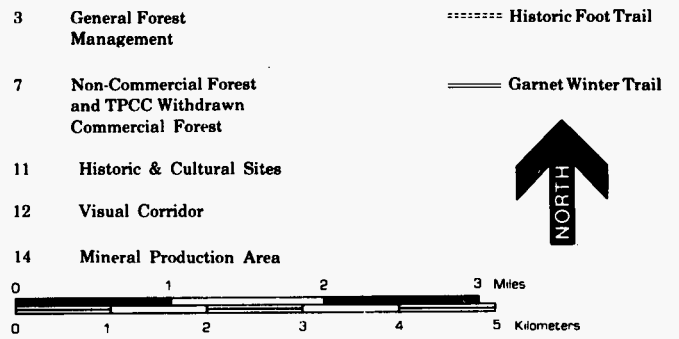
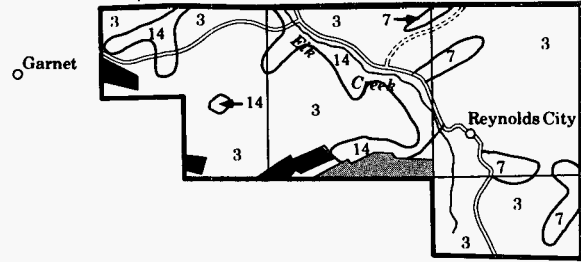
**PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF UPPER ELK CREEK**

**Alternative A**



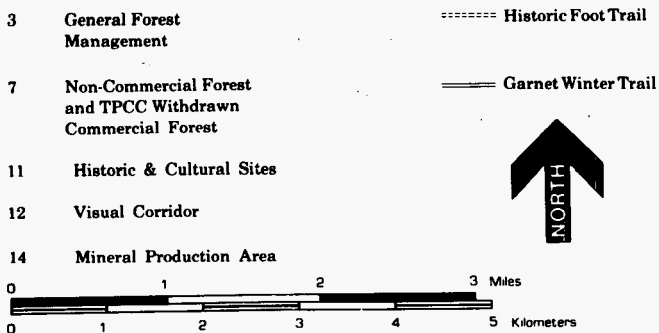
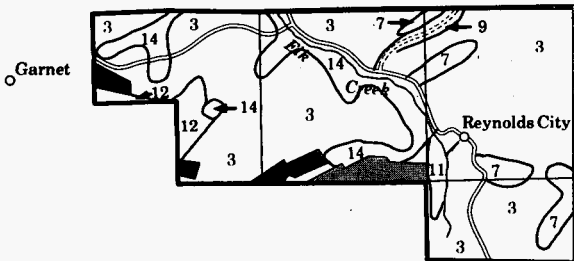
**PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF UPPER ELK CREEK**

**Alternative B**



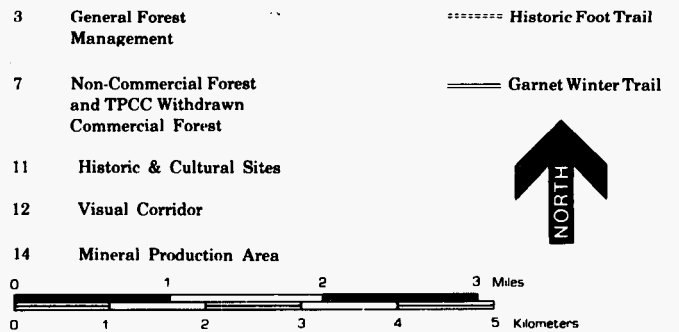
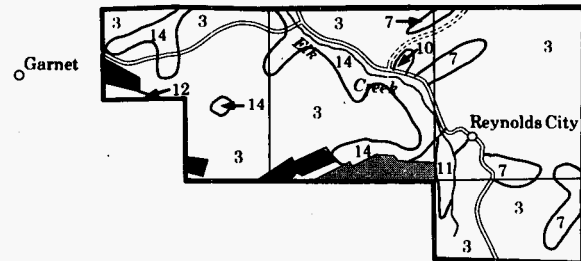
**PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF UPPER ELK CREEK**

**Alternatives C and D**



**PROPOSED MANAGEMENT OF UPPER ELK CREEK**

**Alternative E**



sents noncommercial forest land managed to maximize site productivity and water quality. MA 9 represents a special management area that protects a unique site. MA 11 represents historic and cultural sites. MA 12 represents areas of scenic importance. MA 14 designates areas of mineral production.

The five Elk Creek maps show how these management areas were combined under each alternative. Alternative A represents a continuation of present management. Alternative B maximizes resource production. Alternatives C and D maximize resource protection. Alternative E is the preferred resource management plan and attempts to blend the best of the other four alternatives.

Expanding these concepts to the entire Garnet Resource Area produces the Garnet RMP/EIS. Maps showing how each alternative combines the management areas are in the map packet. Management area descriptions are in Appendix A.

## **HOW THE GARNET RMP/EIS IS ORGANIZED**

### **Abstract and Summary**

These sections of the RMP/EIS give a brief description of the entire document. This is a good place to start your review and get an overall view of the RMP/EIS.

### **Introduction**

This section describes the planning process.

### **Chapter 1. Issues and Criteria**

This chapter lists the issues that were developed by discussions with those who would be affected by the RMP. The plan deals primarily with these concerns. Criteria by which the alternatives were evaluated are also listed in this section.

### **Chapter 2. Alternatives**

This chapter gives a detailed description of the proposed management under each of five alternatives. A preferred alternative is selected and the rationale for the selection is listed. This chapter is the heart of the resource management plan. The reader should spend time studying the alternatives, especially the preferred alternative.

### **Chapter 3. Affected Environment**

This chapter describes the Garnet Resource Area and its resources as they presently exist.

### **Chapter 4. Environmental Consequences**

This chapter analyzes the changes that may occur if each alternative were implemented, and attempts to assign the relative significance of each change both beneficial and adverse. This chapter is the heart of the environmental impact analysis. The reader should check the information presented and add anything that was overlooked but may well change the conclusions made.

### **Chapter 5. Consultation and Coordination**

This chapter lists the agencies, organizations, and individuals who were consulted during the development of this document.

### **Chapter 6. List of Preparers**

This chapter lists the individuals who developed this document and their qualifications.

### **Glossary, References, and Index**

These sections are provided to aid the reader in finding and understanding the material contained in this document.

### **Appendixes**

These sections generally contain additional information needed to understand the RMP/EIS. The most important of the appendixes are:

**Appendix A.** A description of the goals and guidelines for each of the 14 management areas.

**Appendix O.** The preliminary draft environmental impact statement for the four wilderness study areas—Wales Creek, Hoodoo Mountain, Gallagher Creek, and Quigg West.

### **Map Packet**

The large maps in the map packet depict important aspects of the RMP/EIS. The management areas are mapped for each alternative. The areas designated for retention in public ownership are shown on another map. Grazing allotments, motorized vehicle travel, and land status are shown on other maps.

**GARNET RESOURCE AREA  
DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
DECEMBER 1984**

**LEAD AGENCY:** U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

**TYPE OF ACTION:** Administrative

**JURISDICTION OF ACTION:** Missoula, Granite, and Powell Counties, Montana

**ABSTRACT:** This document addresses the environmental consequences of five alternative land use plans for the Garnet Resource Area, Butte District, Montana. The main planning issues relate to management of renewable, special attention, and nonrenewable resources; land ownership and administration; and cultural, aesthetic, and recreation resources. The five alternatives address a variety of combinations of decisions relating to these issues. The No Action Alternative is a continuation of present management; the remaining alternatives provide a range of choices from those emphasizing resource protection to those emphasizing resource production. Also, the alternatives make recommendations of no wilderness, all wilderness, and partial wilderness for four wilderness study areas.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** David R. Baker, Project Manager, Garnet Resource Area Office, 3255 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, Montana 59801; Telephone (406) 329-3914.